

in your shoes

Week 3: Grace

Those people can be the worst. You know who “those people” are, right? We all have them, and they’re difficult to like, much less love. Jesus had “those people,” too, and his approach to “those people” provides insight that may help us as we encounter “those people” in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time when a “well-meaning person” offered you unsolicited advice. What kind of impression did it leave on you?
2. Do you have a group of people that’s nearly impossible to love? Who are “those people” in your life?
3. John 13:34–35 says, “A new command I give you: As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Does this command make you feel uneasy? How would it change your relationship with “those people”?
4. What’s the difference between accepting someone and agreeing with someone? Is it possible to accept someone without agreeing with them... and still maintain the relationship?
5. What’s the best way to have a healthy conversation with someone you disagree with?
6. “Grace seeks to understand, not to be understood.” How would this change your interaction with “those people.”

Moving Forward

We don’t have to agree with someone to accept them. We do need to have conversations with them to understand them and make the most of every opportunity. We don’t have to agree to show grace or to seek to understand. We don’t have to agree to be curious. We do have to be genuine. We do have to show sincere empathy. So who in your life do you need to accept without agreeing with? Who in your life do you need to have a conversation with?

Changing Your Mind

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34-35